

REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for carefully considering this application.

Disposition of Claims

Claims 8-10 are pending in this application. Claims 8, 9, and 10 are independent. In the Office Action dated August 2, 2005, a discrepancy in the status of the claims existed. During a telephone conversation with Examiner Suchfield on August 18, 2005, Examiner Suchfield verified that claims 1-7 were withdrawn from consideration by Examiner Suchfield following a telephone conversation with the undersigned on July 27, 2005 and are hereby cancelled, and claims 8-10 were rejected as outlined below.

Priority Claim

Applicant respectfully notes that the Office Action Summary incorrectly acknowledges a claim for foreign priority, indicating that the instant application was filed as a national stage application. In fact, the instant application is a utility application claiming priority under § 119(e) to two provisional applications, 60/429,726, filed November 15, 2002, and 60/411,317, filed September 17, 2002. Correction is respectfully requested.

Claim Amendments

Claims 8-10 have been amended by way of this reply to more clearly recite the present invention. No new matter has been added.

Objections to the Specification

The specification stands objected to for being unclear what the symbol "X" represents in the chemical formula recite on page 7. This objection is respectfully traversed.

The chemical reaction detailed on page 7 is merely a simplified, illustrative example of the crosslinking mechanism that occurs during a condensation reaction between a ketone (or aldehyde or aldol) and an amine. The symbol "X" in the amine is used as a generic element to represent that any chemical element or chemical group may be used in the chemical formula. One of ordinary skill in the art, particularly in the field of polymer chemistry, would use "X" in such an illustrative manner when the terminal end is the reactive portion of the compound and would further recognize that the chemical reactants will crosslink regardless of the identity of "X." Accordingly, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 8-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) for being anticipated by WO 99/31353 ("Coveney"). Claims 8-10 have been amended in this reply to clarify the present invention recited. To the extent that the rejection may still apply to the amended claims, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

With respect to claims 8-10, Coveney fails to teach, show, or suggest all of the elements of each claim. Specifically, Coveney does not teach, show, or suggest the combination of a first reactant and a second reactant in the condensation reaction, where the first reactant is selected from the group consisting of: an aldehyde, a ketone, a synthetic polymer, branched starch, unbranched starch, dextrin, methylglucoside, substituted methylglucoside, corn syrup, malto-dextrin, molasses, sugar, cellulose, reducing sugars, polymerized reducing sugars, and mixtures and combinations thereof, and the second reactant is selected from the group consisting

of hexamethylene diamine (HMDA), ethoxylated alkyl ether amine, propoxylated alkyl ether amine, polyoxy propylene diamine, and combinations thereof. Thus because Coveney does not show all of the elements of claims 8-10, claims 8-10 are patentable for at least these reasons. Withdrawal of this rejection of claims 8-10 is respectfully requested.

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 05542/060002).

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Respectfully submitted,

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